

‘Bridging Distances in Healthcare’

Vision

Rural Minnesota residents will have access to anytime, anywhere healthcare education through distance learning*

Mission

To increase the accessibility of healthcare education in rural Minnesota communities to meet the healthcare worker shortage

Goals

- Distance learning will be accepted as a viable model for 2-year Registered Nursing (RN) education, as a career ladder step toward higher skilled nursing degrees
 - Using existing infrastructure and new technology, customize a 2-year registered nursing education program to meet the needs of nontraditional students in rural communities, in partnership with local healthcare providers
 - Offer healthcare training programs in a nontraditional way, that allows the flexibility needed for students to stay in their community, maintain their job, and support their family while attending classes
 - Enhance/support local access and flexible methods of training 2-year RNs in rural Minnesota communities
 - Additional options for 2-year RN training, (e.g., evening/weekend classes; classes one day/wk, clinicals one day/ wk; non-traditional class format – ITV, online, CD-ROM, etc.) will be available to students in rural Minnesota
- Increase the earning potential of program participants while filling the employment needs of rural MN healthcare providers (clinics, hospitals, nursing homes, ambulance/EMS services)
 - Incumbent workers will be able to increase both their skills and wages
 - ‘Home-grown’ students will have the opportunity to obtain skills certifications in a healthcare field without needing to relocate, or travel long distances
 - 260 additional registered nurses will either be working in rural MN, or will have started their education toward their 2-year RN degree
 - Help students complete BSN and Laboratory Technology degrees, through existing programs
 - 25 additional Bachelor level nurses will complete their education and be working in rural MN
 - 5 additional Laboratory Technologists will complete their education and be working in rural MN
- Address the nursing faculty shortage by recruiting and supporting individuals with a BSN or higher to attain their MSN degree for teaching in rural MN
 - At least 10 additional MSN nurses will be educated and working as nursing faculty and/or preceptors in rural MN
- Build coalitions with healthcare providers, workforce centers, and education providers to develop an ongoing system that will meet healthcare staffing needs

*With the understanding that in nursing education there will be exceptions to the “anytime, anywhere” philosophy of distance education.